

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 10-17 are allowed. Claims 1-8 are rejected. Claims 1 and 2 are amended. Claims 1-8 and 10-17 remain.

Applicants request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections of claims 1-8 are respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,497,135 issued to Vetter ("Vetter"). Applicant respectfully traverses the aforementioned rejections for the following reasons.

According to MPEP §2131, "[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.' (Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). 'The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.' (Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an ipsissimis verbis test, i.e., identity of

terminology is not required. (In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990))."

Applicants' amended claim 1 contains the limitations of "[a] window operator for controlling the movement of a window sash between open and closed positions relative to a window frame, the window operator comprising a mounting arrangement for coupling to a sill of said window frame, an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a first side jam, a second side jam and a top piece, a drive transfer mountable in a cavity formed between the window sash and window frame when the window sash is in a closed position such that the mounting arrangement and drive transfer are not visible when the window sash is in the closed position, an operator handle and handle mounting mountable to a surface of the window frame, the operator handle being coupled to the drive transfer and the drive transfer being drivingly coupled to an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a threaded element located on the elongate threaded member and a hinge connected to the mounting arrangement whereby the hinge is mountable to said window frame, the hinge arrangement comprising a sash mounting and at least one arm pivotally coupled at respective ends to the sash mounting and the mounting arrangement, a sliding element associated with the mounting arrangement and coupled to the sash mounting, the sliding element being coupled to the threaded element wherein movement of the threaded element applies a moving force to the hinge to, in use, cause the window sash mounted to the sash mounting to move between said open and closed positions."

Applicants' amended claim 2 contains the limitations of "[a] window operator for controlling the movement of a window sash between open and closed positions relative to a window frame, the window operator comprising a mounting arrangement for coupling to a sill of said window frame, an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a first side jam, a second side jam and a top piece, a drive transfer mountable in a cavity formed between the window sash and window frame when the window sash is in a closed position such that the mounting arrangement and drive transfer are not visible when the window sash is in the closed position, an

operator handle and handle mounting mountable to a surface of the window frame, the operator handle being coupled to the drive transfer and the drive transfer being drivingly coupled to an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a threaded element located on the elongate threaded member and a hinge connected to the mounting arrangement whereby the hinge is mountable to said window frame, the hinge arrangement comprising a sash mounting and at least one arm pivotally coupled at respective ends to the sash mounting and the mounting arrangement, a sliding element associated with the mounting arrangement and coupled to the sash mounting, the sliding element being coupled to the threaded element wherein movement of the threaded element applies a moving force to the hinge to, in use, cause the window sash mounted to the sash mounting to move between said open and closed positions."

It is asserted in the Office Action that Vetter teaches a window operator for controlling the opening and closing movement of a window sash relative to a window frame. Vetter discloses that the window frame is of a conventional construction with the drawings illustrating a sill 15 and a pair of side jambs 16 and 17. (See also, Vetter, column 2, lines 45-47). Therefore, it is clear that in Vetter sill 15 is an element of the window frame. The window frame is said to be of "conventional construction," *i.e.*, it has a sill 15 as part of the construction. It is well known in the art that a window frame has four elements, namely a sill, side jambs and a top piece. Thus, the sill cannot also be the mounting of the operator.

Applicants' amended claims 1 and 2 include the limitation of a "window operator for controlling the movement of a window sash between open and closed positions relative to a window frame, the window operator comprising a mounting arrangement for coupling to a sill of said window frame, an elongate threaded member mounted with the mounting arrangement, a first side jam, a second side jam and a top piece, a drive transfer mountable in a cavity formed between the window sash and window frame when the window sash is in a closed position such that the mounting arrangement and drive transfer are not visible when the window sash is in the closed position." Therefore, claims 1 and 2 are not capable of being interpreted in a way that

the sill can constitute the “mounting” of the operator. Accordingly, it is evident how the limitations of claims 1 and 2 preclude the sill 15 of Vetter from constituting the “mounting” because the sill along with the side jambs constitutes the “window frame.”

Further, Vetter discloses a conventional window hinge mounted in a conventional manner to a basic window frame. It is mounted separately to the window operator. In contrast, Applicant’s claimed invention defines a window operator, which as a mounting whereby the window operator is mounted to the frame element. The window hinge is connected to the mounting. Therefore, the hinge becomes mounted to the window frame element upon mounting of the window operator. This is not the case with Vetter where the hinge is mounted directly to the window frame element separate to the window operator mechanism.

Therefore, since Vetter does not disclose, teach or suggest all of Applicant’s amended claims 1 and 2 respective limitations, Applicants respectfully assert that a *prima facie* rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) has not been adequately set forth relative to Vetter. Thus, Applicant’s amended claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by Vetter. Additionally, the claims that depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, namely claims 3 -8, are also not anticipated by Vetter for the above same reason.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of claims 1-8 are respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner’s assertion that claims 10-17 are allowable

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-8 and 10-17, as it now stands, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely 1-8 and 10-17, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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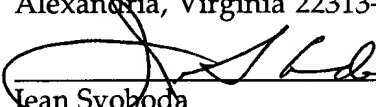
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 14, 2005.


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